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1. In 1937 the Chung Hsing mines at Tsaochuang (117-38, 34-58) north of Hsuehou had an output of 10,000 tons of coal per day, much of which was exported to Japan and the South Seas. All of the machinery was of German or Japanese make. The mines were linked by rail to Lincheng. There are three pits: East, West and Tsaochuang side.
2. After the end of the war with Japan, the Communists besieged Tsaochuang for several months and destroyed most of the buildings and machinery. Consequently, when they took over they found it very difficult to increase the output again.
3. In mid-1951 the mines were still producing only 800 tons per day, which was not even enough to supply local factories. The coking plant was still in ruins, and very little coke was produced manually. The labor force was 10,000, chiefly mining by primitive methods, as such of the old machinery as had not been wrecked was by then in very bad condition.
4. In November 1951 some Russian mining experts arrived with a quantity of machinery, including lifts. Shortly after their appearance the East China Ministry of Heavy Industry announced that it was hoped to raise output to the 1937 level by the end of 1952.
5. The mines are run by the East China Coal and Charcoal Enterprise Company (華東軍區煤炭企業總公司).
6. The company rations out the coal produced to various factories in East China, a high proportion going to Shanghai; none is sold to private firms.
7. Skilled miners are paid JMP 600,000 per month. Unskilled laborers are paid JMP 3,000 per day, which is barely enough to buy food.

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